

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /115 W
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P 250452Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5624
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SUVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 WELLINGTON 02770

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, FJ, UN, LE
SUBJECT: FIJI VOLUNTEERS FOR PEACE KEEPING FORCE

REF: A) SUVA 0637, B) WELLINGTON 02656 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AFTER CONSIDERABLE BREAST-BEATING AND
MINISTERIAL-BUREAUCRATIC WRANGLING, THE GNZ HAS
DECIDED TO PROVIDE BASIC LOGISTICAL SUPPLIES FOR
500-MAN FIJIAN DEFENSE FORCE UNIT BEING DISPATCHED
MAY 26 TO LEBANON AS PART OF UN PEACE KEEPING FORCE.
GNZ DECISION WAS REACHED ONLY AFTER SEVERAL STRONG
NEGATIVE REACTIONS BY SENIOR CABINET MINISTERS TO
BOTH THE FIJIAN REQUESTS AND THE PRELIMINARY DISCUS-
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SIONS OF THE ISSUE IN WHICH THE GNZ BUREAUCRACY HAD
ALREADY ENGAGED. SOURCES HAVE ASKED THAT THEIR
DISCUSSIONS BE PROTECTED. END SUMMARY.

1. IN ADDITION TO REFTTEL A, PERHAPS THERE HAVE BEEN
OTHER EXCHANGES ON THE ISSUE OF A FIJIAN PEACE KEEPING
FORCE FOR LEBANON TO WHICH THIS EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN

PRIVY. WHILE INFORMATION RECENTLY PROVIDED BY NEW ZEALAND MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS GOES BEYOND THAT PROVIDED IN REFTEL A, EMBASSY HAS BEEN CONCERNED MAINLY WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR NEW ZEALAND IN DISPATCH OF FIJIAN FORCE TO LEBANON.

2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT:

- A) FIJIAN FORCE OF 500, INCLUDING 200 REGULAR INFANTRY AND 300 TERRITORIALS (RESERVES) WILL BE PROVIDED UN PEACE KEEPING FORCE, LEBANON (UNIPFL);
- B) FIJIAN ADVANCE PARTY WILL DEPART FIJI FOR LEBANON MAY 26 WITH REMAINDER OF FORCE DEPLOYING ON JUNE 1;
- C) RAF WILL PROVIDE FULL AIRLIFT SUPPORT, FIJI TO LEBANON, FREE OF CHARGE;
- D) AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN REQUESTED AND HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE APPROXIMATELY \$270,000 WORTH OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION, DIRECTLY TO FIJIAN FORCES AND FREE OF CHARGE;
- E) USG HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO PROVIDE FIJIAN FORCE COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT, TENTAGE AND HEAVY TRANSPORT (EMBASSY DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS HAS BEEN AGREED TO);

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- F) GNZ HAS BEEN REQUESTED, AND HAS AGREED, TO PROVIDE RATION PACKS, PERSONAL KITS, CLOTHING, SMALL ARMS AND ADDITIONAL BASIC LOGISTICAL MATERIEL, AND TO TRANSPORT THIS MATERIEL TO FIJI;
- G) GNZ HAS AGREED TO AUTHORIZE THE SECONDMENT OF A NZ ARMY OFFICER (LTC. RAYMOND J. ANDREWS, CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO FIJIAN DEFENSE FORCES) TO THE FIJIAN FORCES, UNIPFL, AS SECOND-IN-COMMAND;
- H) GNZ HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TRAINING SUPPORT TO FIJIAN DEFENSE FORCES TO PREPARE, WITHIN SIX MONTHS, A SECOND REPLACEMENT FIJIAN UNIT FOR UNIPFL.

3. MFA SOURCE HAS ADVISED THAT THE GNZ WAS APPROACHED IN BOTH NEW YORK AND SUVA FOR SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE TO FIJIAN FORCES. SURPRISINGLY, HOWEVER, THE CENTRAL ISSUES OF:

- A) WHAT SHOULD BE DONE FOR THE FIJIAN FORCES BY GNZ,
- B) HOW SHOULD IT BE DONE, AND

- C) WHO WILL PAY FOR IT,

HAVE BECOME HIGHLY SENSITIVE IN WELLINGTON AND,
ACCORDING TO MFA, IN SUVA AND NEW YORK AS WELL.
IN MFA'S VIEW, THE ISSUES CLEARLY FAVOR THE EXTENSION
OF NZ MILITARY SUPPORT TO FIJI BECAUSE:

- A) THE GNZ-FIJI DEFENSE LINKS ARE OF LONG DURATION
AND HAVE ALWAYS BEEN POSITIVE;

- B) THE GNZ HAS INVARIABLY SUPPORTED THE UN PEACE

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5625

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR PARA FOUR

KEEPING ROLE;

- C) THE GNZ MUST BE SEEN BY ITS PACIFIC NEIGHBORS AS
SUPPORTIVE OF THE EFFORTS OF ONE OF ITS CLOSE REGIONAL
MEMBERS;

- D) THE WILLINGNESS OF THE UK, AUSTRALIA, AND PER-
HAPS THE USG TO ASSIST THE FIJIAN FORCES WOULD MAKE A

NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM THE GNZ A SPECIAL BILATERAL
"DISASTER."

4. HOWEVER, WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A CLEAR-CUT DECISION
WAS, REPORTEDLY, ALMOST TORPEDOED BY MINISTERIAL-
BUREAUCRATIC WRANGLING. GNZ CABINET MINISTERS, REPORT-
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EDLY INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER MULDOON, BECAME HIGHLY
SENSITIVE TO WHAT THEY BELIEVED WERE IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS
ON IMPLEMENTATION, CARRIED ON BY BUREAUCRATS, BEFORE
A POLICY DECISION ON THE ISSUE HAD BEEN REACHED BY
CABINET. AN MFA SOURCE SAID THE MINISTRY RECEIVED A
"CHURLISH NOTE" FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT
ADVISING THAT NO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WERE TO BE CARRIED
ON BY MFA, OR ITS OVERSEAS POSTS, BEFORE CABINET REACHED
A DECISION "IN ITS OWN TIME." AS LATE AS MAY 23, THERE-
FORE, MFA COULD STILL NOT CONFIRM THAT THE GNZ WOULD
FULFILL FIJIAN REQUESTS (POINTS F -H OF PARAGRAPH TWO)
AND DO SO FREE OF CHARGE.

5. MFA SOURCE CONTINUED THAT SEVERAL GNZ MINISTERS
REMAIN MOST UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE COST OF THE GNZ'S
SUPPORT FOR THE FIJIAN OPERATION, BELIEVE THE GNZ HAS
UNDERTAKEN AN OPEN-ENDED COMMITMENT TO FIJI (E.G.,
TRAINING, EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT, QUARTERMASTER SUPPORT,
ETC.), AND ARE CHARY OF THE PRESENCE OF A NEW ZEALAND
MILITARY OFFICER IN LEBANON. GNZ HIGH COMMISSIONER IN
SUVA WAS, REPORTEDLY, ASKED TO RETURN TO WELLINGTON
TO EXPLAIN THE EFFECT A TURN-DOWN OF THE REQUEST WOULD
HAVE FOR FIJIAN-NEW ZEALAND RELATIONS. WHILE A GNZ
CABINET DECISION WAS REACHED MAY 22 AGREEING TO THE FIJIAN
REQUESTS, IT WAS NOT COMMUNICATED TO MFA AND DEFENSE
UNTIL MAY 24. TWO RNZAF C-130'S, THEREFORE, ARE BEING
URGENTLY LOADED TO TRANSPORT THE REQUIRED LOGISTICAL
SUPPLIES TO FIJI BY MAY 26.

6. EMBASSY COMMENT: THAT THE GNZ SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN
INTO SUCH A QUANDRY OVER THIS ISSUE IS ASTONISHING
AND PERHAPS EXPLAINABLE ONLY IN TERMS OF MINISTERIAL
PREROGATIVES. SELDOM HAVE EMBASSY OFFICERS EXPERI-
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ENCED SUCH BUREAUCRATIC SENSITIVITY TO REQUESTS FOR
INFORMATION AS WAS EXHIBITED BY BOTH DEFENSE AND MFA
SOURCES. THE LIKELY EXPLANATION IS THAT SENIOR MINIS-

TERS BELIEVE THEY HAD BEEN BOXED IN BY BUREAUCRATS
ON A POLICY ISSUE, AND THEY REACTED NASTILY. THE
COSTS TO THE GNZ, WHILE SIGNIFICANT, ARE HARDLY
CRUSHING, PROBABLY AMOUNTING TO LESS THAN \$100,000.
IT IS INCONCEIVABLE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE
DOMESTIC ENTHUSIASM WITH WHICH THE FIJIANS ARE DIS-
PATCHING THEIR FORCE, THAT THE GNZ COULD HAVE
ULTIMATELY REACTED OTHERWISE. END EMBASSY COMMENT.

7. FYI: SOURCES HAVE SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT THE
EMBASSY PROTECT THEIR DISCUSSIONS OF THIS ISSUE.
ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED, THEREFORE, NOT TO ATTRIBUTE
ANY OF THE FOREGOING INFORMATION. END FYI. HEALY

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